



**REGIONAL CONTINUUM OF CARE COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
Tuesday March 30, 2010**

- **CALL TO ORDER** at 10:04 AM with members of both consortia and guests present. (See sign in sheet).
- **GUEST PRESENTATION- Martinez v Astrue Class Action Settlement**  
Tom Theisen of Legal Aid Society of San Diego (LASD) and Gerald Mc Intyre from the National Senior Citizens Law Center (NSCLC) presented detailed information on the terms of the Martinez Class Action Settlement for persons who were denied benefits by the Social Security Administration under the “fleeing felon” regulation. It is estimated that 3,000-4,000 persons in the San Diego area may be eligible for SSA, SSI, SS-DI or survivor benefits under this settlement.

NSCLC and LASD are working together to ensure that people who are eligible receive their benefits. The presenters distributed four documents: A Wall Street Journal article about the settlement; a SCLC comprehensive handout describing who is eligible and what they need to do to claim past benefits or begin receiving benefits; a LASD flier in Spanish and English; and a LASD flier for the homeless advocacy program.

RCCC members posed questions to the presenters concerning clients who may be hesitant to file a claim. In summary, with the LASD program as a point of contact, the risk is very minimal. RCCC Member agencies are encouraged to help inform clients about the program, providing the LASD phone number 877-534-2524; and possibly providing a mailing address as appropriate. See handouts for more information.

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** for January, 2010 as distributed, by consensus.

- **STEERING COMMITTEE**

*HEARTH Act Presentation* – Simonne Ruff provided a presentation on the changes that the Hearth Act will make to the HUD Homeless Programs. The PowerPoint overview prepared by Norm Suchar, National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH), highlights the major changes. For urban areas, like San Diego, this means increased percentage allowed for administration; emphasis on prevention, rapid re-housing and chronic homelessness; and a greater focus on outcomes. The overview included a cross-walk summary of the old Emergency Shelter Grant with the new Emergency Solutions Grant, and the old CoC competitive program guidelines with the new CoC (SHP) ones. The presentation is available electronically and will be distributed to consortia members.

The RCCC Steering Committee has scheduled extra sessions to focus on how the local CoC will comply with the HEARTH Act but are subject to being rescheduled since HUD program regulations for the HEARTH Act have not yet been released. These sessions will be open to RCCC members. Recommendations from the sessions will be brought back to the full RCCC.

*Data Governance Membership* The RCCC approved the Steering Committee recommendation to approve Craig Jones as a representative on the Data Governance Committee (DGC) which is the liaison between the RCCC Steering Committee and the Regional Task Force on the Homeless as the dedicated HMIS grantee. The responsibilities of the DGC and RTFH are summarized in the CoC HMIS Agreement as approved. (30 yes, 1 abstaining)

The City Consortium approved appointment of Mielle Schwartz as the CA601 representative to the DGC. (13 yes, 1 abstaining)

*CoC Consortia Merger* - During the 2009 competitive process, HUD notified CoCs that a hold-harmless CoC and preliminary pro-rata need (PPRN) CoCs have an opportunity to combine into a single CoC and retain the full pro-rata share of the PPRN. This opportunity only applies to the 2009 and 2010 competitions. In 2009, the RCCC voted to remain separate in 2009 but to reconsider for 2010. HUD cautioned CoCs to be aware of potential financial impacts post 2011. HUD indicated that merging COC allocations will be based on geocodes after 2010. Only a limited amount of information is available about what will happen in 2011 onward.

After consideration of the immediate fiscal impact and the unknown future impacts, the Steering Committee recommended that the two consortia not merge and that each of the consortium areas fully utilize their allocation (HH for City and PPRN for County) in 2010. If County CA610 reaches hold-harmless this year, the merge decision becomes moot. The RCCC adopted the recommendation of the Steering Group in excess of the 80% consensus level. (29 yes, 4 abstaining).

- SUBCOMMITTEE and LIAISON REPORTS

*HMIS - Data Quality* – PIT / HIC Update – Peter Callstrom reported that the Point-In-Time Count (PITC) unsheltered count and sheltered data are complete. Initial indications are that the total count will be up by approximately 500 persons. The data from the unsheltered survey are being compiled. As the additional information is ready, PITC reports will be released.

HIC – In January, the RCCC was advised that HUD is implementing an electronic system for the Housing Inventory Chart (HIC). Local CoCs must verify and list all homeless dedicated beds on the HIC, whether or not the program received HUD funds. This data is entered into the HUD HDX system. This year, the time line for entering this information is restricted by HUD, so there is less time to correct errors. This means that the information must be accurate prior to entry into the system.

The RTFH has been working to verify the program information submitted by each provider. RCCC members are asked to make accurate responses to RTFH questions a priority since this information forms the baseline of several HUD evaluations and effects the funding for the entire CoC.

*PTECH (aka Home Again)* – Green Keys are the new symbol for the *Home Again* initiative (formerly known as PTECH). A series of public service announcements released since December '09 highlight the accomplishments of the efforts. The five programs that received funding in 2009 are approaching the completion of one year. Watch for additional reports.

*Rating and Ranking Group* – Since the next SHP round is rapidly approaching and changes to the CoC competition in 2009 and the Hearth Act means potential additional changes, the Rating and Ranking subgroup is requested to convene to consider adjustments to the local process. The past subgroup Chair, Shanda (Roberts) Lewis has left the RCCC and a new Chair needs to be identified. The Steering Group encourages interested parties to advise them prior to the next Steering Group meeting.

*HPRP Update* – March 31<sup>st</sup> is the end of another HPRP quarter. During this quarter, the RCCC supported the HPRP efforts by distributing an asset / eligibility policy and two revised eligibility forms required by HUD. RCC member agencies also continue to be providers / grantees in each of the eight HPRP programs operating in the San Diego region.

*Employment Forum* – The Facilitator thanked the Employment Subcommittee for another successful Employment Forum in February. Presenters provided core information on how to use technology in finding and securing jobs. The presentations were well-received. The local CoC consistently exceeds HUD's national employment goal and the forums assist in making this possible.

*Legislative Committee* – Rosemary Johnston provided a summary of the detailed March Legislative report which is distributed electronically. Highlights from each level follow:

*Federal Report:* The President signed **Health Care Reform** that expands Medicaid eligibility to include people with incomes to 133 percent of the poverty level, covering nearly all people experiencing homelessness; provides approximately \$10 billion for community health centers for four years; expands early childhood home visitation programs, provides parent education, child development, and support services to low-income, at-risk young children and their families.

**VA Call Center:** A National Call Center for Homeless Veterans will connect homeless and at-risk veterans, their families, and others with VA and community-based resources. Dial 1-877-4AID-VET (or 1-877-424-3838). The call center and

an on-line chat service are initiatives of the VA's Five-Year Plan to End Veteran Homelessness.

**Second Chance Initiative:** The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) released solicitation for 2010 Second Chance Act Juvenile Mentoring Initiative. Governmental agencies, federally organized Indian tribes, public universities and colleges, and nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply for funds for mentoring and transitional services, including housing, for juveniles returning from correctional facilities. The deadline for applications Tuesday, April 27.

**NAEH and CSH Briefing on Chronic Homelessness:** The National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) and the Corporation for Supported Housing (CSH) on Policy Solutions to Chronic Homelessness. NAEH President says that the solution to chronic homelessness is known. The housing plus services model used in a "housing first" approach works best for chronically homeless persons.

Administration and Congress were praised but told that Congress' challenge now is to bring these resources to scale. The groups are also urging Congress to authorize the Services for Ending Long-Term Homelessness Act.

**State Legislative Report:** Hannah Cohen, Rosemary Johnston, and Doris Payne Camp attended the annual **Housing California Homeless Policy Committee** meeting in Sacramento with other advocates around the state to identify **legislative priorities** for 2010. **Ending the Pooled Money Investment Board crisis** which has affected the ability of non-profit and affordable housing developers to obtain construction loans topped the list. Other priorities include a state interagency council on homelessness, a permanent source of funding for the Housing Trust fund, promoting housing affordability, protecting the safety net during the budget process, requiring the state to apply for 'balance of state' McKinney-Vento funding; integrated services for mentally ill parolees, and influencing regulations and implementation of the National Housing Trust fund and HEARTH. \

The *California Budget Project* projects that one million children could lose health benefits or coverage if the state does not receive the \$6.9 billion in federal funds assumed in the governor's proposed budget. That figure includes almost 88,000 children in the San Diego region. CBP also estimates that the governor's proposal to reduce SSI/SSP payments and eliminate the Cash Assistance program for Immigrants would affect 950,000 Californians, including more than 62,000 in the San Diego region. Domestic Violence funding, is again, zeroed out in the proposed budget.

**Local Report:** The Alliance for Regional Solutions will close its winter shelter program tomorrow, resulting in the loss of 150 beds in North County and closure of the city of San Diego's winter shelter programs means a loss of 370 beds. By

May 8<sup>th</sup> the Interfaith Shelter Network Rotational Shelter Program will close another 36 beds. In total, this is a loss of more than 550 beds in the region.

San Diego Superior Court conducted its first behavioral-health court tailored to meet the needs of the chronically mentally ill, many of whom are homeless.,.

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS and OTHER BUSINESS**

*Financial Management Training* – Members received a notice for HUD technical Assistance training on April 15-16<sup>th</sup>. Dolores Diaz announced that the training is mandatory for County Consortium Shelter Plus Care providers. All members who have not participated in past financial management trainings are encouraged to attend.

*The Women's Resource Fair* in early March served 800 women and nearly 200 children. Like *Project Homeless Connect* and *StandDown* for veterans the numbers of homeless served in these special venues are a testimony to the need. Volunteers and collaborators were thanked for their help in making this event possible.

Jon Derryberry from *Townspeople* announced that after two years, two weeks and one day the funding for the 34<sup>th</sup> Street property has closed. Seventeen lenders, including the San Diego Housing Commission construction loan and other short term funding to bridge the bond market instability is making the project possible. It is hoped that the project will be completed in August.

The *Housing California annual conference* will be April 26-28. Info about registration and workshops is available at [www.housingca.org](http://www.housingca.org) or by phoning Lynda Chandler at (916)447-0503 x 101.

The *April guest presentation* features Rene Santiago, Deputy Director for County of San Diego's Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA).

- **ADJOURN at 11:41 AM.**

**NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, April 27, 2010  
10:00 AM

National University  
9388 Lightwave Ave.  
San Diego, CA. 92123